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Executive Registry

68-4352

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20546

DE/SET# 3837-68

OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

September 27, 1968

Honorable Richard Helms
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C. 20505

Dear Mr. Helms:

You are cordially invited to witness the first manned Apollo launch now scheduled no earlier than 11:00 a.m., EDT, October 11, 1968 at the John F. Kennedy Space Center.

The 10.8 day earth-orbital mission is designated as Apollo 7. Astronaut Walter M. Schirra, a veteran of the Mercury and Gemini programs is Commander. His crew includes Astronauts Donn F. Eisele, Command Module Pilot; and Walter Cunningham, Lunar Module Pilot, both making their first space flights.

The Apollo 7 mission will demonstrate performance of the spacecraft's command and service modules, the crew, and the support facilities.

A Saturn IB Rocket will boost the Apollo from Launch Complex 34 into a 120-by-150 nautical mile orbit. During the second revolution, the flight crew will separate the Apollo from the launch vehicle's upper stage and perform a transposition and simulated docking maneuver similar to the one to be performed on a mission to the Moon.

I sincerely hope your schedule will permit you to observe the launch and to share in this historic event. Delays always are possible in a launch of this complexity. In the event of a delay or postponement this invitation is, of course, extended to the new date.

With best personal wishes.

Sincerely yours,

T. O. Paine
Deputy Administrator

NASA review completed

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